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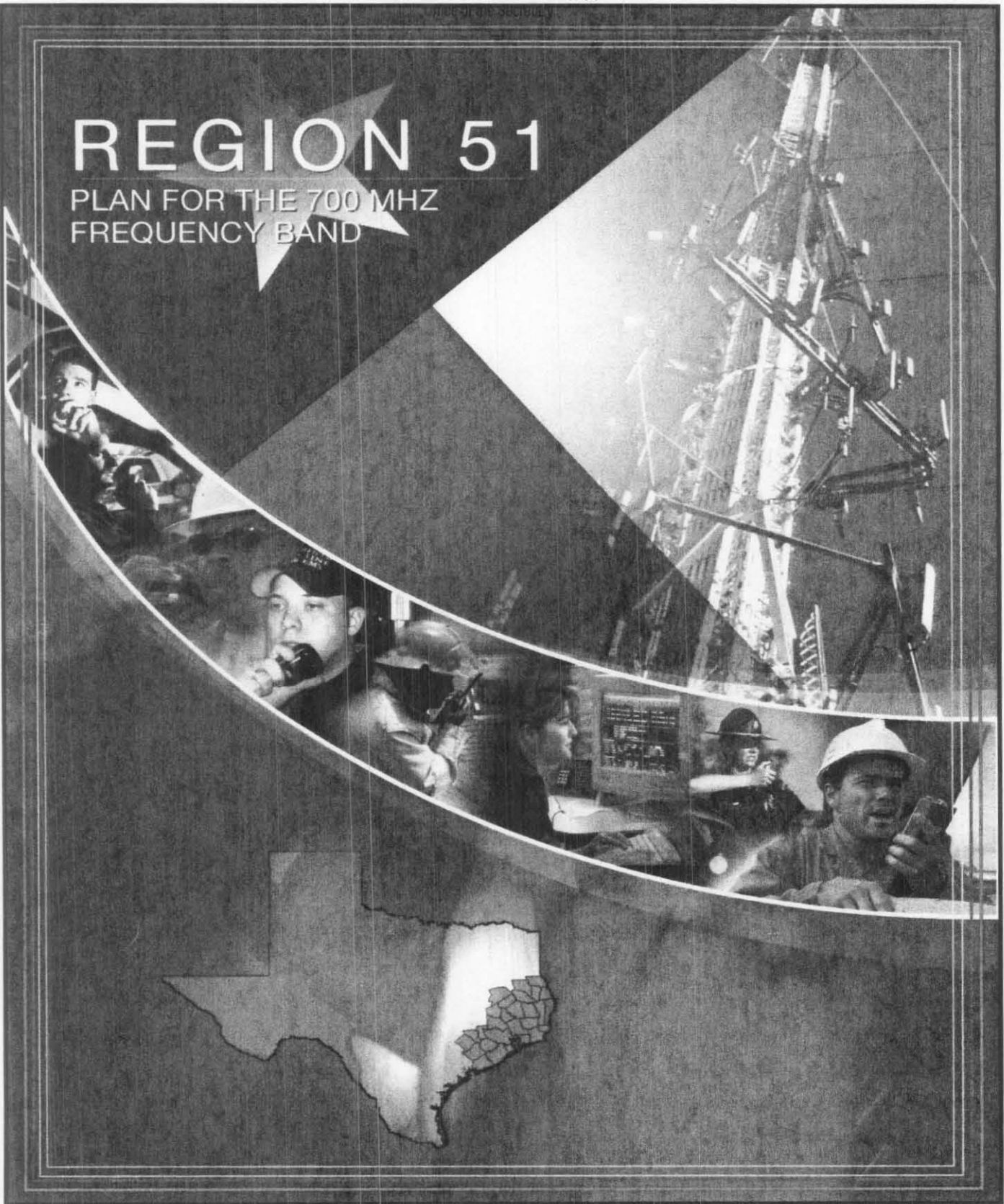
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FEB 29 2008

Federal Communications Commission

REGION 51

PLAN FOR THE 700 MHZ
FREQUENCY BAND



The REGION 51 700 MHz REGIONAL PLAN

**BY
THE REGION 51 700 MHz PLANNING COMMITTEE**

This document is the Regional Plan for Region 51 (Texas - East) describing how the 763-775 MHz / 793-805 MHz public safety frequencies will be allocated and implemented in the Region.

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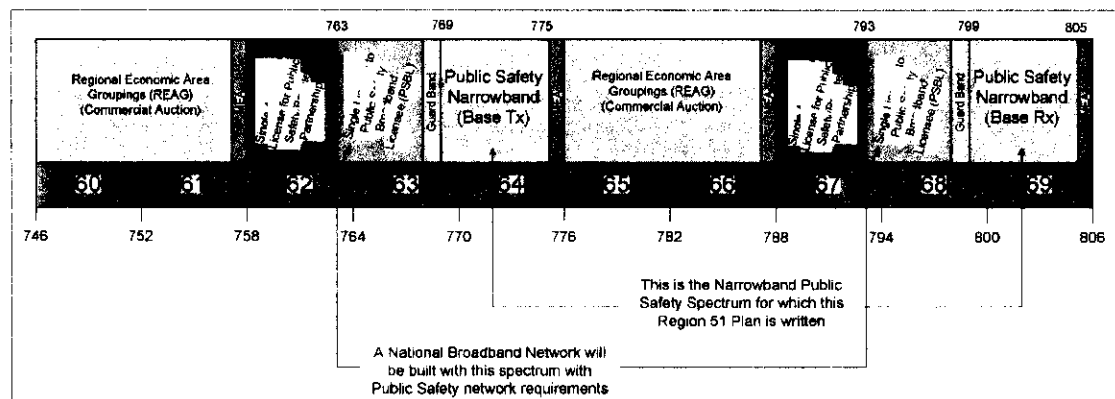
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1.1. Authority

The Region 51 700 MHz Planning Committee is established under section 90.527 of the FCC's rules and regulations.

1.2. Preamble

- 1.2.1. In order to help alleviate major wireless radio congestion, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) released 60 MHz of television broadcast spectrum – channels 60-69 (746-806 MHz) for use by land mobile radios. In addition to alleviating the congestion for wireless radio systems, the FCC also hoped to provide public safety access to new technologies that may require additional use of bandwidth, and promote interoperability. Additionally, a widespread movement within public safety communications calling for broadband systems capability prompted the FCC to reallocate the new spectrum. To accomplish these goals, the FCC allocated this spectrum as follows:



- 1.2.2. The Public Safety spectrum consists of TV broadcast channel 63 & 64 paired with channels 68 & 69. The Regional Planning Committee (RPC) is tasked with the administration and management of this plan which deals with the 12 MHz of Narrow Band spectrum for Public Safety.
- 1.2.3. Public Safety users will also have priority access to a National Broadband Network which will be constructed with Public Safety grade network requirements. The spectrum for this National Broadband Network will be divided between a single auctioned licensee, and the Public Safety Broadband Licensee (PSBL).

1.3. Current Regional Chair

The Regional Chairperson is Doug Frankhouser. Contact information is:

Doug Frankhouser
Houston Airport System
16930 JFK Blvd.
Houston, TX 77032
281.233.1344
douglas.frankhouser@cityofhouston.net

1.4. Other Current RPC Officers and Full RPC Membership

The Vice Chairperson of Region 51 is Craig Bernard. Contact information is:

Craig Bernard
Harris County ITC
2500 Texas Ave.
Houston, TX 77003
713.755.5998
Craig.bernard@itc.hctx.net

The Regional Chairperson's assistant or the Vice Chairperson's assistant may act as the Secretary for Region 51; currently there is not a position of Treasurer.

Membership in the Region 51 Regional Planning Committee is open to any interested party as defined by FCC Part 90.523. Committee Officer requirements, voting procedures and membership attendance requirements are listed in the Region 51 Planning Committee By-Laws. Section 11 contains the Region 51 By-laws. Section 12 is a list of Region 51's members, their agency/affiliation and voting status.

1.5. Region 51 Description

1.5.1. Map of the Region



1.5.2. List of Counties

Region 51 consists of 28 counties:

Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Wharton.

Harris is the largest by population; San Augustine is the smallest. Five core counties make up the UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) Region; Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery. The UASI Region contains 82.52% of the total Region 51 population; Region 51 contains 26.24% of the total population of the State of Texas (U.S. Census 2005).

1.5.3. General Counties Profile Data

| County | U.S. Census 2005 Population | UASI Core Counties * | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Angelina | 81,557 | | | | |
| Austin | 26,123 | | | | |
| Brazoria * | 278,484 | 278,484 | | | |
| Chambers | 28,411 | | | | |
| Colorado | 20,736 | | | | |
| Fort Bend * | 463,650 | 463,650 | | | |
| Galveston * | 277,563 | 277,563 | | | |
| Hardin | 50,976 | | | | |
| Harris * | 3,693,050 | 3,693,050 | | | |
| Houston | 23,218 | | | | |
| Jasper | 35,587 | | | | |
| Jefferson | 247,571 | | | | |
| Liberty | 75,141 | | | | |
| Matagorda | 37,849 | | | | |
| Montgomery * | 378,033 | 378,033 | | | |
| Nacogdoches | 60,468 | | | | |
| Newton | 14,309 | | | | |
| Orange | 84,983 | | | | |
| Polk | 46,640 | | | | |
| Sabine | 10,416 | | | | |
| San Augustine | 8,907 | | | | |
| San Jacinto | 24,801 | | | | |
| Shelby | 26,346 | | | | |
| Trinity | 14,363 | | | | |
| Tyler | 20,617 | | | | |
| Walker | 62,735 | | | | |
| Waller | 34,821 | | | | |
| Wharton | 41,554 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Total 2005 Population for 28 Counties | Total 2005 Population for Core Counties | | Region 51 % of Total State of Texas Population | |
| | 6,168,909 | 5,090,780 | | 26.24% | |

1.5.4. State Profile

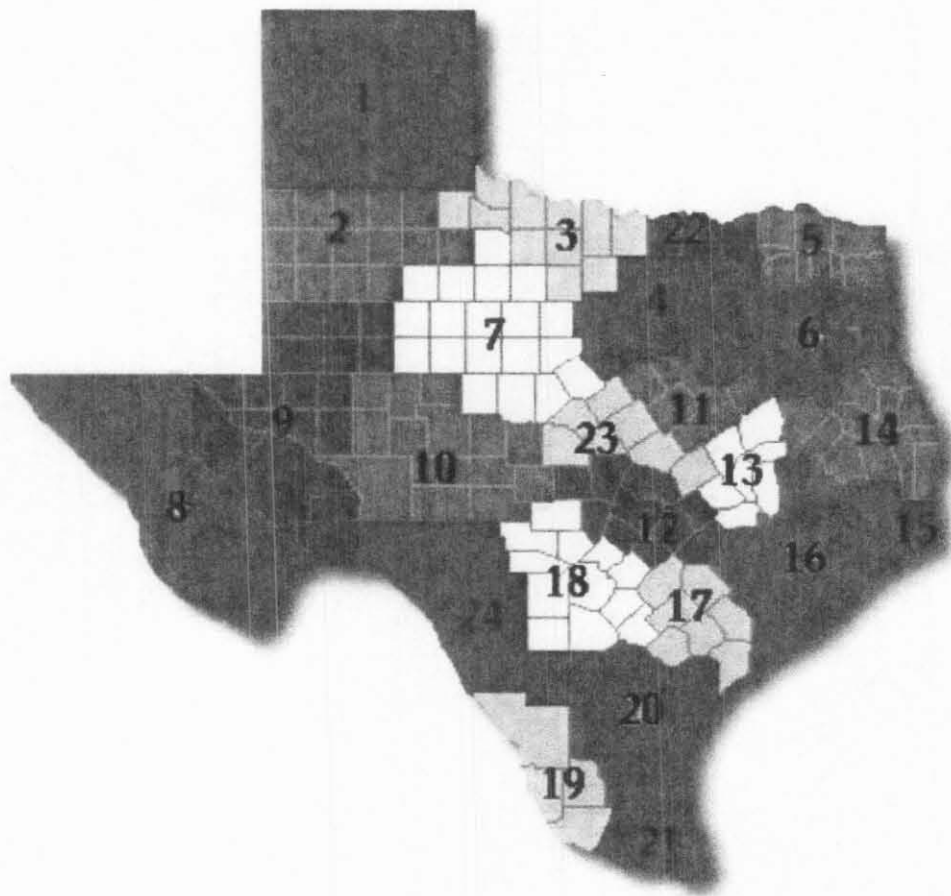
U.S. Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights:

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSSAFFacts?_event=&geo_id=04000US48&geoContext=01000US%7C04000US48&street=&county=&cityTown=&state=04000US48&zip=&lang=en&sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=geoSelect&useEV=&pctxt=fph&pgsl=040&submenuId=factsheet_1&ds_name=null&ci_nbr=null&qname=null®=null%3Anull&keyword=&industry=

U.S. Census Bureau 2005 Economic Fact Sheet:

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFEconFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=01000US&geoContext=01000US&street=&county=&cityTown=&state=04000US48&zip=&lang=en&sse=on&ActiveGeoDiv=geoSelect&useEV=&pctxt=bq&pgsl=010&submenuId=business_0&ds_name=ECN_2002_SAFF&ci_nbr=&qname=®=%3A&keyword=&industry=

1.5.5. Texas Councils of Government (COG)



Region 51 includes three (3) COG's within its boundary: **14, 15, & 16**

1. Gulf Coast State Planning Region 16 – Houston-Galveston Area Council

Established: September 1966

Area: 12,444 sq. miles

Population: 5,418,150 (U.S. Census 2005 est.)

Counties Served: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, Wharton

2. State Planning Region 15 – South East Regional Planning Commission

Established: June 1970

Area: 2,196 sq. miles

Population: 383,530 (U.S. Census 2005 est.)

Counties Served: Hardin, Jefferson, Orange

3. Deep East Texas State Planning Region 14 – Deep East Texas Council

Established: 1967

Area: 9,906 sq. miles

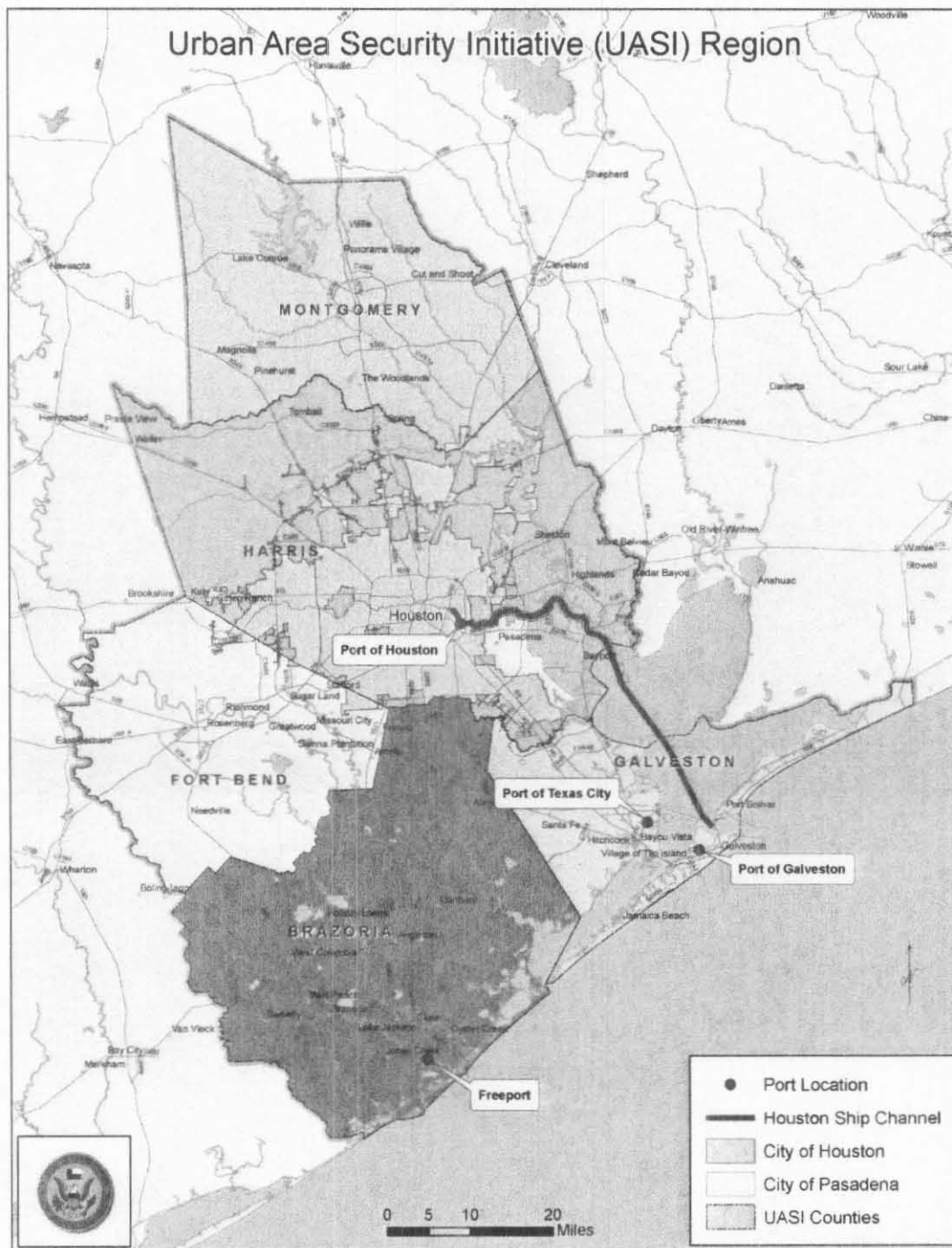
Population: 331,642 (U.S. Census 2005 est.)

Counties Served: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler

1.5.6. Region 51 Federal and State Public Safety Agencies

- **Federal Law Enforcement Agencies**
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - Drug Enforcement Administration
 - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, Explosives
 - U.S. Customs and Border Protection
 - U.S. Secret Service
 - U. S. Coast Guard
 - Ellington Air Force Base
- **State Agencies With Enforcement Responsibility**
 - Department of Public Safety
 - Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission
 - Texas Forest Service
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife
 - Texas Department of Transportation

1.5.7. Houston Urban Area



The Houston Urban Area is comprised of many jurisdictions including The City of Houston, Harris County, Montgomery County, Fort Bend County, Brazoria County,

Galveston Counties, the Port of Houston Authority, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County and the City of Pasadena

The five counties that comprised the Houston Urban Area span more than 5,000 square miles of mostly flat terrain with a combined population of over 5 million residents. More than 38% of these residents (just under two million) reside within the corporate limits of the City of Houston, approximately 620-square mile urban area that is the fourth largest city in the nation, situated almost entirely within the nation's third largest county, Harris County.

As one of the nation's largest urban centers, Houston has a number of vulnerabilities in common with other metropolitan areas. These include critical infrastructures like roads and bridges, water supply, banking and commercial centers, educational, religious and cultural facilities and government and public safety operations.

Under the old FBI threat assessment matrix, Houston was often cited as the only city in the US with vulnerabilities in all nine threat areas. It is the presence of typical urban infrastructures as outlined above, combined with the city's unique assets, making the Houston Urban Area particularly vulnerable and therefore requiring interoperable communications and adequate radio spectrum.

Unique assets within the Houston Urban Area include:

- The Port of Houston, one of the nation's largest deep water ports, is linked to the Gulf of Mexico by the 50-mile Houston Ship Channel. Of the US ports, the Port of Houston ranks first in foreign tonnage, with public and private maritime terminals that annually generate \$11 billion in revenue.
- The Houston Urban Area has the largest petrochemical complex in the US and one of the largest in the world, refining 2.2 million barrels of oil each day and generating 1/8 of the nation's capacity.
- Fourteen of the nation's top 20 natural gas transmission companies have corporate or divisional headquarters in Houston, controlling two-thirds of the US capacity, as do 11 of the nation's top 20 petroleum pipelines, controlling one third of US capacity.
- The largest medical center in the world comprised of 42 member organizations and world-renowned hospitals that serve an international constituency.
- NASA's Johnson Space Center, which serves as mission control for shuttle flights and the International Space Station operations.
- Houston is a cultural and entertainment center for the region. The area has resident companies in every major art discipline.
- Houston also has professional teams in every major sport, with new venues online or opening in the next year for each sport.
- Houston's international prominence has led its selection as the host city for major sporting events, including the NFL Super Bowl, MLB All-Star Game, NBA All-Star Game, and the NCAA Final Four.

Houston's location on the Gulf Coast makes the threat of severe weather and tropical storms very real. In 2001, Tropical Storm Allison's 36 inches of rain resulted in 22 deaths and \$5 billion in damages.

Tornadoes are reported in Texas more often than in any other state, and Harris County is the state's tornado capital, with 173 reported tornadoes in the county in the 50 year period between 1950 and 1999.

The City of Houston and all five counties that comprise the Houston Urban Area are geographically located in the 13-county Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) region. H-GAC is one of 24 councils of government (COGs) that are voluntary associations of local governments formed under Texas law. The COGs address issues that cross individual jurisdictional boundaries necessitating regional attention such as homeland security, cooperative purchasing, economic development, air quality and transportation.



2.1. Notification Process

2.1.1. Meeting Announcements

The 1st meeting of the Region 51 700 Public Safety Planning Committee was announced 60 days ahead of the November 8, 2000 meeting. The meeting notice was advertised in Texas Fire Chief Magazine, APCO's Public Safety Communications magazine, the Houston Chronicle newspaper, the Lufkin Daily News newspaper, and the FCC's website.

Subsequent meeting notices were posted on the FCC's website and sent to all previous meeting attendees via email.

2.1.2. Comment Solicitation

In each of the announcements, invitees were encouraged to provide input into the planning process. During the meetings, participants were encouraged to comment on a previous meeting's items and the current agenda's items. Comments were given at the time of meetings, provided ahead of meeting times on the website, and made directly to the chairman and vice-chairman. The chairman stated that the Plan should represent all jurisdictions in Region 51 and that all representatives are encouraged to provide the input necessary to make an effective Plan.

2.1.3. Copies of Notices, Comments, and Submissions

See Appendices.

2.1.4. Description of Comment Consideration

Comments, issues, concerns, and recommendations raised during the meetings are discussed fully by the attendees. As appropriate, Simple Parliamentary Procedures are used to approve any requisite action required as a result of this process.

2.2. Operations of the Regional Plan Committee

- 2.2.1. The Region 51 700 MHz Committee has not begun the process for opening a filing window to take requests for radio spectrum. Discussion and meetings regarding 700 MHz spectrum have been well attended by the public safety agencies within Region 51. High population densities and current scarce spectrum resources indicate a majority of requests for 700 MHz spectrum will be from the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area.

Several areas within Region 51 may request 700 MHz channels to expand and accommodate growth of existing 800 MHz systems.

- 2.2.2. This committee will use Simplified Parliamentary Procedures to conduct meetings. This method allows for all members to have their voice heard. All decisions will be by clear consensus vote with each Public Safety Agency in attendance having one (1) vote. Additional voting member considerations are listed in the Region 51 Bylaws, Section 11. The meetings are open to all interested persons and public input time is provided for anyone to express a viewpoint or to have input to the Regional Planning process.
- 2.2.3. Subcommittees may be formed as needed to work on specific issues, and dissolved when work is complete and recommendations made to the full Regional Planning Committee (RPC). Subcommittees are intended to work on the details of specific issues and make recommendations to the full committee for the development of the Region 51 Regional Plan. Any changes to the Regional Plan must be voted and approved by the full RPC. Participation in subcommittees is open to any member. The Chair of the RPC appoints each Subcommittee Chair as needed. Region 51 has one standing subcommittee for Interoperability.
- 2.2.4. A minimum of one (1) full committee meeting will be held per year. The Region 51 Chairperson has the authority to call an additional meeting at a time when he/she deems necessary or when he/she deems it in the best interest of the Region to convene. In an attempt to offer as many people as possible the opportunity to contribute to the Regional 700 MHz Planning Committee, a central location was chosen to host the meeting.
- 2.2.5. The original Region 51 website was created in 2000. The new Region 51 website was created in 2006. The website is used to disseminate information to those interested as well as dates and time of sub-committee and full committee meetings. The website URL is <http://www.region51.hctx.net>.
- 2.2.6. Beginning two years after Federal Communications Commission's approval of this Regional Plan, the Chairperson shall call a meeting of the Regional Planning Committee to elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary to serve for a two-year term. There is no limit to the number of terms that may be served by officers of the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee.
- 2.2.7. If the Chair is unable to serve a complete term, the Vice Chair will serve as Chair until the next 700 MHz Regional meeting. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are unable to serve their full terms, one or the other should make an effort to call a special meeting of the Committee to elect replacements. If for some reason, neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair can call the special meeting; the State or any County within the Region may

call for a special meeting, giving at least 5 days notice, to elect replacements.

- 2.2.8. A chronological list of meetings, attendees, and meeting summaries outlining Region 51's progress in 700 MHz developments is located in Section 13 of this document.

2.3. Major Elements of the Plan

- 2.3.1. The major elements of this Plan follow the National Coordination Committee (NCC) guidelines. Region 51 would like to express its "Thanks" to the NCC for their work on these guidelines. Without the guidelines, the Plan development would have been much more difficult. Region 51 would also like to thank the National Law Enforcement and Correctional Technology Center (NLECTC) for its development and support of the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination Resource And Database System (CAPRAD) and the staff that supports this system. The funding, training and support from NLECTC, Rocky Mountain Region and the CAPRAD personnel as well as the Regional Planning Colloquiums were invaluable to the development of this Plan.

- 2.3.2. The major elements of this Plan are:

- The declaration that this is the Region 51 Plan
- That Region 51 encompasses 28 Counties in the State of Texas
- The administration and operation of the committee
- 700 MHz interoperability
- General Use spectrum management
- Allocation request processing
- Dispute resolution
- Adjacent Region coordination and
- The appendices with the channel allocation being Section 16. The channel allocation contains the both the general usage voice and wideband data channels.

3.1. Procedure for Requesting Spectrum Allotments

3.1.1. General Information.

Upon FCC approval of this Plan, Region 51 will announce to the Region that 700 MHz public safety channels are available in the Region and that channels have been assigned in pool allotments to counties within the Region for usage by Public Safety entities. The general usage spectrum may be used by all Local government entities and State agencies only if the State Channels have been depleted or not available in that county. The Wide Band Data Channels are available to both local and state government on a first come first serve basis.

- All available methods will be used to notify public safety entities of channel availability in the Region. All spectrum requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Region 51 supports the National Coordination Committee Pre-Assignment Rules and Recommendations listed in Section 15, and will use these guidelines as a template to determine if an application submitted to the Regional Planning Committee meets Regional Planning standards. It is recommended that applicants familiarize themselves with these recommendations prior to submitting applications for Region 51 700 MHz public safety system implementation. Region 51 may develop a supplemental form for applicants to submit, along with their FCC form, to help guide them through the application process.
- In general and unless otherwise noted, the Region 51 Regional Planning Committee will adhere to the published National Coordination Committee Implementation Guidelines for 700 MHz Public Safety Regional Planning Committees.

3.1.2. Spectrum Re-Usage.

Region 51 utilized the CAPRAD pre-coordination database system to maximize channel re-usage in the 700 MHz band. Since the spectrum is reused, it is hoped that each system will use the minimum power necessary to meet their needs. If power and ERP seems excessive to the committee, a reduction in power or antenna gain may be requested to minimize interference and increase spectrum efficiency to other co-channel and adjacent channel users.

3.1.3. Application Submission.

To request channels from Region 51, a full application package must be submitted to the NLECTC - Sponsored CAPRAD database at: